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**Shennecossett Golf Course Recognized for Environmental Excellence**

GROTON, CT – Shennecossett Golf Course has retained its designation as a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary" through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, an Audubon International program.

Participation is designed to help course personnel plan, organize, implement, and document a comprehensive environmental management program and receive recognition for their efforts. To reach certification, a course must demonstrate that they are maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas including: Environmental Planning, Wildlife & Habitat Management, Outreach and Education, Chemical Use Reduction and Safety, Water Conservation, and Water Quality Management.

"Shennecossett Golf Course has shown a strong commitment to its environmental program. They are to be commended for their efforts to provide a sanctuary for wildlife on the golf course property," said Doug Bechtel, Executive Director of Audubon International.

The golf course is one of 13 courses in Connecticut and 906 courses in the world to receive the honor. Golf courses from the United States, Africa, Australia, Central America, Europe, South America, and Southeast Asia have also achieved certification in the program. The golf course was designated as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary in 2005. After designation, courses go through a recertification process every two years.

This year the recertification process, coordinated by Eric Morrison, Certified Golf Course Superintendent and Manager of Golf Course and Parks Maintenance at Shennecossett Golf Course, required a visit by a local community representative. Victoria Wallace, Sustainable Landscapes Extension Educator at the University of Connecticut, was given a tour of the course and sent her observations to Audubon International. "Shennecossett Golf Course provides golfers an opportunity to play a relaxing round of golf and an excellent opportunity to view an assortment of songbirds and shore birds that coexist on the property," Wallace reported.

"We see the site visit as an important component of a course's recertification," stated Bechtel. "It provides an objective verification of some of the more visible aspects of the course's environmental management activities. In addition, it offers an opportunity for golf course representatives to share publicly some of the voluntary actions they have taken to protect and sustain the land, water, wildlife, and natural resources around them."

**About Audubon International**

Audubon International is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) environmental education organization dedicated to providing people with the education and assistance they need to practice responsible management of land, water, wildlife, and other natural resources. To meet this mission, the organization provides training, services, and a set of award-winning environmental education and certification programs for individuals, organizations, properties, new developments, and entire communities.

For more information, contact Audubon International at 120 Defreest Drive, Troy, NY 12180, (518) 767-9051, e-mail at [acsp@auduboninternational.org](mailto:acsp@auduboninternational.org), or visit the website at [www.auduboninternational.org](http://www.auduboninternational.org).

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